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THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, I have no definite information about South Zone. I do not know what the hon. Member means by South Zone . . . ."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" The South Madras Electric Supply system? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The reason given is that the distribution system is mostly underground in a highly urban area and so is a complicated one. In the interest of efficiency, it is necessary to employ only competent officers to manage the system where we have city consumers. Even when officers remain there for more than three years, several complaints could not be avoided. If they are changed in the middle and new officers are posted, complaints may increase. However, I may inform the House that new officers have been trained to replace the existing officers eventually."

Remission of land revenue in Malabar.

* 807 *Q.*—SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB (on behalf of Sri A. Appu) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to give remission of land revenue in respect of wet lands in Malabar on which the Makaram crops have withered?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There is no proposal to grant special remissions in respect of wet lands in any part of Malabar. The ordinary seasonal remissions admissible under the rules are reported to be sufficient."

Withdrawal of the relief scheme formulated for the benefit of the handloom weavers.

* 808 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some reliefs hitherto given to handloom weavers have been withdrawn; and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The question is vague. If the hon. Member is referring to the relief scheme formulated by the Government for the benefit of the weavers in 1952, it was in force till 31st January 1954. Since then, schemes financed from the Mill Cloth Cess Fund are in progress and the continuance of the relief scheme organized by the State Government was not necessary."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" பட்ஜெட் பிரசங்கத்தில் செஸ் பண்டு திட்டத்தால் பிரயோசனம் இல்லையென்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அப்படி இருக்கும்போது ஏன் இம்மாதிரி இந்த ஸ்கீமை வாபஸ் வாங்கவேண்டும் ? "

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8-10 a.m. THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have answered this question once before. This scheme was given up and then the other scheme relating to the cess fund has been taken up. There has been no gap at all."

Payment of risk allowance to the staff of the Mental hospital.

* 809 *Q.*—SRI K. ISHWARA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the doctors in Tuberculosis and Mental hospitals draw any risk allowance;

(*b*) if so, how much per month;

(*c*) whether nurses also draw this allowance; and

(*d*) if not, why?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Medical Officers working in the Tuberculosis institutions are not paid any risk allowance. But the Medical Officers attached to the Government Mental Hospitals including the Superintendent are eligible to draw a Class I Special pay, i.e., a risk allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem.

" (*c*) Nurses employed in the Tuberculosis institutions are not allowed any risk allowance, but those employed in Mental Hospitals are being paid a risk allowance.

" (*d*) The present ways and means position of the State does not admit of granting this allowance to the staff in the Tuberculosis institutions."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Minister, may I know what the risk is? The Minister said that the allowance is paid because of the risk involved."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is some risk in attending to mental patients in the Mental Hospital."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the nursing orderlies or ward-boys in the Mental Hospital are given any risk allowance? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The nurses are given the risk allowance."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" As the nursing orderlies are also likely to take some risk in attending to these patients, will the Government consider the question of giving them also the allowance? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not know whether there has been any such proposal."